

What Does Sacramento City-County Consolidation Mean to the Gay Community?

by Bruce Pierini
GUEST WRITER

Sacramento voters will decide in November whether they want city and county governments to merge. This issue usually puts people into a deep sleep right about here at the second sentence. But acute political observers know that if the voters approve the consolidation in November it will have a deep and lasting impact on the character of Sacramento.

Instead of the present nine-member City Council and 5-member Board of Supervisors, the new government will have an upper-tier 11-member Council of Supervisors and 20, lower-tier, local community councils; all will be elected offices.

At present a "strong mayor" with veto power over council ac-

Commission, by a 15-0 vote, has held firm to the form of mayorship described, but it is possible that the role may be changed in the coming weeks.)

Will the gay community be positioned to increase its representation? Or will the gay and lesbian voice become background noise in a much larger metropolitan government?

Predicting the political effects the merger would have on the gay community is like finding one's way out of a house of mirrors; there are many possible foreseen and unforeseen consequences of a particular course

The City's Gay Rights Ordinance

The city has had a gay rights ordinance which has protected people from discrimination in housing and employment since May 1986. It protects not only public employees but those in private businesses (with the exception of religious organizations.) The county has no such ordinance. (Although there is privacy protection and civil rights protection under both the State Constitution and state case law.)

Will the legislated protection from discrimination that gays

dinance.

The reason the Ad-Hoc Charter Commission wants to keep the status quo upon consolidation is because in erecting a structure for the new government, it studiously wants to avoid policy imbroglis. That would be the death knell of the merger proposal which hinges fragily on the support of hundreds of interest groups. The Commission sees itself only providing a structure — it will leave it up to the new top-level Council of Supervisors to fight out changes to any standing ordinances and policies.

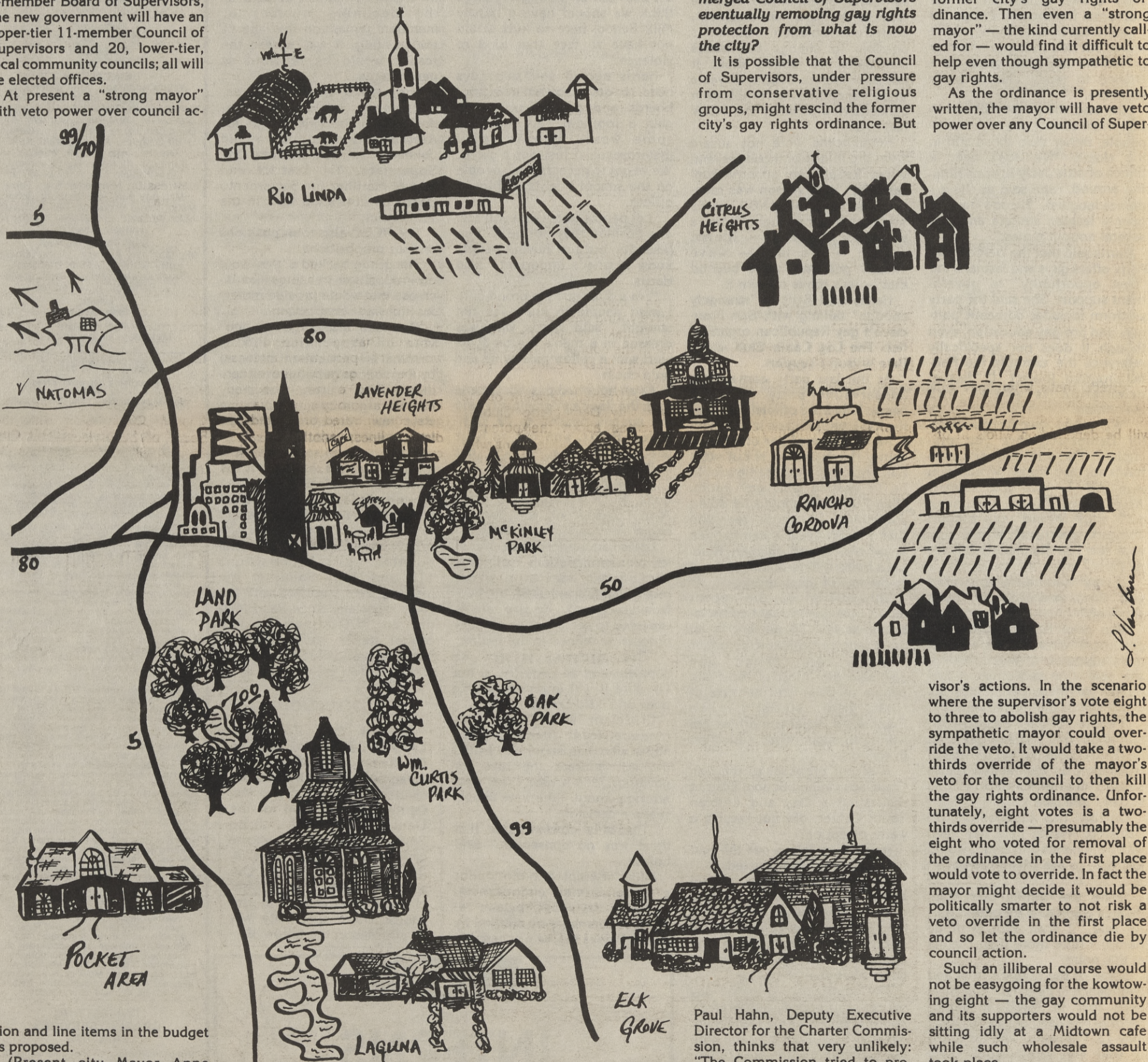
What is the likelihood of the merged Council of Supervisors eventually removing gay rights protection from what is now the city?

It is possible that the Council of Supervisors, under pressure from conservative religious groups, might rescind the former city's gay rights ordinance. But

of Supervisors would continue to run their respective governments; but they would form a transition body — three from the council and five from the board. During this pivotal two-year period of transition, the most critical changes that would affect the gay community would be fought out — the status and potential changes in ordinances like gay rights and the drawing of district lines for political representation by supervisors.

Let's assume, however, that Hahn is wrong and Sacramento's political climate changes: Bigot City's Council of Supervisors votes eight to three to abolish the former city's gay rights ordinance. Then even a "strong mayor" — the kind currently called for — would find it difficult to help even though sympathetic to gay rights.

As the ordinance is presently written, the mayor will have veto power over any Council of Super-



tion and line items in the budget is proposed.

(Present city Mayor Anne Rudin disagrees that a "strong mayor" is actually what is being proposed — as written the mayor does not deliberate and vote with the supervisors, but "sits in" with a potential veto power after decisions are made. Rudin believes the mayor, elected by all the voters, could best influence policy if she or he sits as a Council of Supervisors member and votes along with the others; others, notably Supervisor Sandy Smoley, Toby Johnson and Jim Streng, do not want the mayor to have veto power. The Charter

but ultimately it's the community's own wits, united willpower and perseverance that count.

The two most immediate issues the merger presents are 1) what will happen to the city's gay rights ordinance? and, 2) are gays likely to benefit or suffer under a proposed "strong mayor?" The larger background question is, of course, to what extent will gay politics be changed, for better or worse, by the marriage of the two jurisdictions?

and lesbians in the city now enjoy change under consolidation?

Probably not. That is because policy differences that currently exist between the city and county will remain in effect after consolidation. If consolidation is voter-approved, gay people within the former city boundaries will continue to be protected; gays in private enterprises outside the present city, as exists today, will not be protected by a specific or-

Paul Hahn, Deputy Executive Director for the Charter Commission, thinks that very unlikely: "The Commission tried to provide a little extra protection for human rights ordinances in there. If the Council of Supervisors decide they want to alter the ordinance in any manner, it would take a super majority vote of eight of the 11 votes to do that. "To be honest," Hahn continued, "I would very much doubt they would ever be rescinded. They're in place, they have a history. I don't think the political climate is going to go backwards."

Right after consolidation the present City Council and Board

visor's actions. In the scenario where the supervisor's vote eight to three to abolish gay rights, the sympathetic mayor could override the veto. It would take a two-thirds override of the mayor's veto for the council to then kill the gay rights ordinance. Unfortunately, eight votes is a two-thirds override — presumably the eight who voted for removal of the ordinance in the first place would vote to override. In fact the mayor might decide it would be politically smarter to not risk a veto override in the first place and so let the ordinance die by council action.

Such an illiberal course would not be easygoing for the kowtowing eight — the gay community and its supporters would not be sitting idly at a Midtown cafe while such wholesale assault took place.

This is where the "strong" mayor might fit the gay agenda: in the political firestorm the mayor might calculate that not all eight supervisors would hold their vote to abolish the ordinance. If only one faltered, the veto of the removal of the gay rights ordinance would stand.

Why should one suspect that the new mayor would be sympathetic? For quite some time the vast majority of mayors have

See CITY/COUNTY
CONSOLIDATION on page 5

Kids Harass Patrons

by Jim Walker
MANAGING EDITOR

Five to 10 teenagers are apparently harassing patrons of The Western and Faces. One man is said to have been beaten after refusing to give the group money.

The teens reportedly gather on 20th Street between K and J streets, opposite The Western, in a group of trees near the Bekins Building.

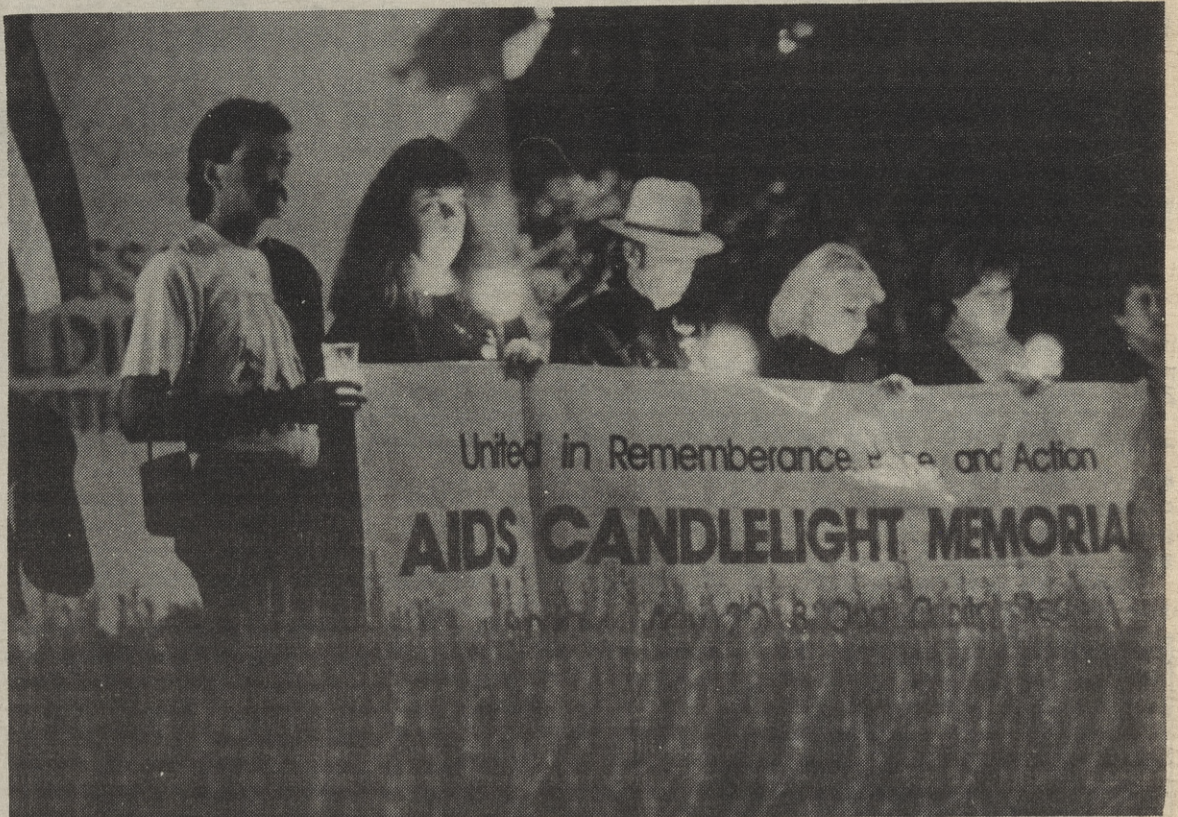
MGW publisher Linda Birner and photographer Frank Lawler stopped to talk to the teens. "They were just a group of kids,

about 15 to 19, on skateboards and bicycles. They were street kids, and very loaded on drugs," said Birner.

According to reports from patrons, the teens ask for money as people enter the bars. If refused, they allegedly attack the bargoers on their way out.

The man who said he was beaten did not file a police report.

Although Sacramento Deputy Police Chief Lee Dohm said officers arrested two men on May 24 in the identified area, it is not known if those arrested are guilty of the harassments. The two arrested, CSUS students, were booked on public drunkenness. ■



Around the globe, cities held the AIDS Candlelight Memorial. Above, local Sacramentans participated in the vigil. Photo by Deborah Goldstein

MCC

from page 1

arise from rapid growth and the benefits derived from creating an ever-widening base of power and influence.

The ever present concern over the handling of the AIDS crises was highlighted by HIV + church member, Woody White. In 1988, with a \$6000 budget from the church, White dedicated himself to serving other HIV + members. Feeling that there is "just as much discrimination within the gay and lesbian community as in the heterosexual community" he set about forming a volunteer

staff that now numbers 65 (95 percent of which are heterosexual).

The evening's entertainment came in the form of a country western dance on Friday evening and a music festival on Saturday that included the group Heart-song, a men's chorus from Seattle, Washington.

Rev. Smith summed up the three days by saying "A hundred years from now, when people look back, they're going to say we lived in the golden age, we lived on the cutting edge of change ... and that this is a wonderful celebration." ■

MGW UNDER the DOME

AIDS Bill Approved in Senate

by Jim Walker
MANAGING EDITOR

The U.S. Senate voted overwhelmingly on May 16 to provide \$600 million in emergency help to hospitals, clinics and other medical institutions that are grappling to meet the needs of 128,000 Americans with AIDS.

The legislation also provides for \$600 million in the next fiscal year and an estimated \$2.9 billion over five years. Following the Senate vote of 95-4, the bill was sent to the House.

President Bush has not stated his position on the bill, but Health and Human Services Secretary Louis Sullivan said he is opposed because the funds can only be used for AIDS.

Both California Democratic Senator Alan Cranston and Republican Senator Pete Wilson spoke and voted in favor of the relief. The only dissenting votes were cast by Republicans Jesse Helms of North Carolina, Gordon Humphrey of New Hampshire, William Roth of Delaware and Malcolm Wallop of Wyoming. Senator John Heinz of Pennsylvania did not vote.

During the days of debate, the Senate fought amendments from Helms that would have weakened the bill. Helms, an openly homophobic conservative, said the AIDS threat has been dramatically exaggerated by the homosexual AIDS lobby and that 90 percent of AIDS victims are drug addicts and homosexuals.

Helms was credited for succeeding in what some Senators called "ruining" the thought of the bill, which was dedicated to Ryan White, the Indiana teenager who died of AIDS April 8 after a long battle to continue attending public schools.

Helms, who recently hired bodyguards to protect him from what he calls "homosexual militants," said White contracted AIDS because of a blood transfusion from donors who practice sodomy. He has also sought several times to make it a federal crime for a person who is aware he has AIDS to donate blood.

While there were three others voting with Helms, many fellow conservatives disagreed with his assertion suggesting an end to homosexuality would bring an end to AIDS.

Senator Orin Hatch (R-Utah), said even if there were less

homosexuality, we would still have the problem among heterosexuals and children.

Other Senators including Edward Kennedy (D-Mass), said we must fight AIDS, not people with AIDS.

Some \$300 million of the money would go to 13 cities where there are at least 2,000 or more diagnosed AIDS cases. \$23.5 million would go to San Francisco and \$15.8 million to Los Angeles. The remaining \$300 million would be for states to fund a system for care of AIDS patients and their families, with an emphasis on rural areas where cases have been increasing.

There is also a stipulation that 15 percent of the money must go to women and children who contract the disease. An estimated 2,200 children had AIDS last year and by 1991, that number is expected to reach 3,500. The proposal would also allow some victims home treatment rather than hospital treatment.

While there is no specific allocation for Sacramento, the city would be in the running for a portion of the \$13.7 million remaining after allocations to San Francisco and Los Angeles. ■

PLANNING TRAVEL
IGA
International Gay Travel Association

Rob Thorbin
(Res) 646-0842

446-0633
818 K St. Mall

925-0633
1892 Arden Way Nr. Mervyns

THE VILLAGE INN
Hotel Restaurant Bar

707/865-2304

River Boulevard
Box 850
Monte Rio 95462

Grady's Copy Shop
Cusqhz Cobl zpsob

Offering Quality & Service in Reproduction

1228 H Street, Sacramento, California
444-6166

The Langtry
Bed & Breakfast

An "Inn of Distinction" with the woman traveller in mind—complete with panoramic views of The City, hot tub, sun deck

So walk the Golden Gate Bridge, ride the Cable Cars, and live the night life of The City—then, come home to the elegance of The Langtry!

First class accommodations for the woman traveling on business or pleasure.

637 Steiner • San Francisco, CA 94117
415/863-0538

LAKE PLACE
A LAKE FRONT RESORT ON CLEARLAKE

9515 HARBOR DRIVE, GLENHAVEN, CA 95443
(707) 998-3331

NYVADA
SOUTH LAKE TAHOE BED & BREAKFAST ON KINGSBURY GRADE

full breakfast ♦ massage ♦ hot tub
deluxe rooms ♦ fantastic views ♦ non-smoking
hiking ♦ casinos ♦ mountain biking

INFO. & RESERVATIONS:
JIM GOTZMAN
(702-588-5559)

BLUE FISH COVE

Beach Cottages ♦ Boat Launching
Boat Rentals ♦ Kitchens
TV ♦ Air Conditioning

OPEN YEAR ROUND
10573 E. Hwy 20 ♦ P.O. Box 1273
Clearlake Oaks, CA 95423-1273
(707) 998-1769

PASSPORT TRAVELCENTER

Proudly Serving Sacramento's Gay and Lesbian Community

641-1140

IGA

MOM'S MEET MARKET

MGW FLASH!

by John Batchelor
OF MGW STAFF

For phone numbers and details on events mentioned in this column, check the calendar and organization information in the back of the paper.

The annual **Lambda Freedom Fair** is just around the corner. Mark June 16 on your calendars in bold highlighting for this Saturday celebration. **Karen Thompson**, entertainment director, informs me of **three** showcases for the day. She even convinced me to dance with some of my gang! See you there • And speaking of Lesbian and Gay Pride Celebrations, you can dial **1-800-654-PRIDE** for the celebration nearest you. Anywhere you may be travelling in California! What will they think of next • The **Sacramento Men's Chorus (SMC)** now boasts over 50 members and recently presented an incredible spring show. It would be easy to devote my entire column to this talented and ambitious group. Where do they find the time? This is, after all, extracurricular! And while the word usually elicits the notion of fun, it's evident that a great deal of work went into the production. It is also worth noting that there is many a future husband to be found in this ensemble. I'm hoping to lure one of the hand studs my way! • **Dianne Feinstein** was in town recently to meet with 30 individuals from the lesbian and gay community. It is certainly encouraging when candidates lobby for our support. There's also a sidebar to the event. It seems that Feinstein brought her daughter along. Strangely enough, the daughter's hair, clothing and general appearance are a lot like Mom's! • Another event that continually flows year after year is the upcoming **PAARC** benefit "**TIMES**." This group has it together with an energetic night of entertainment on June 9 • While I wish it was not necessary, the community took part in the Annual **AIDS Candlelight March** last month. The peaceful walk culminated with insightful speakers, per-

formers and thoughtful sharing. **Tim Warford** and all the organizers put together a warm and wonderful program • With the Gay Games in August, the **Sacramento SAGA III** teams are on the move. Check the **MGW** organization page and support the team of your choice. Send our teams to Vancouver with pride • **Sacramento Area Gay and Lesbian Educators (SAGLE)** are planning a final get-together for June 9. The group's coordinator **Norman Lorenz**, sent out a detailed letter on the event. Norman is one of those people who goes at a fast pace. He does however need to slow down. The letter contained over a dozen grammatical errors. And all of this on a letter to teachers! • Scanning the small screen, it's great to see more positive gay characters. **Designing Women** recently featured a beautiful and talented lesbian anchorperson. **L.A. Law** debated the controversial subject of "outing." One lawyer even the need for further acceptance. If you missed it, maybe you can catch a rerun • On the other side of the coin **Bernie Ward** explored the process of "inning" (not outing!) on San Francisco's KGO newstalk radio. This incredibly ingenious and funny play accused Supervisor **Harry Britt** of being a closet heterosexual. The prank went on and on with some callers claiming that Britt was seen at a party frequented by mainly straight people!! •

On the bar front: Does anyone remember the swimming parties at **Parking Lot**? Well, *deja vu*, now there is **The Lanai** at **Joseph's Town & Country (JTC)**. The main theme is a poolside service and tropical dining all summer • **Faces** followed a similar theme over Memorial Day weekend. The weekend featured Hawaiian BBQ and tea dancing. And kudos to **Faces'** bartender **Richard Borlolo** for putting together an incredible

fundraiser at the **Blue Iris** restaurant. Owner **Siva Ponusany's** culinary delights were irresistible • As promised, the **Wreck Room** hosts the **Mr. Summer Rubber Festival** on Friday June 8. **Joe Chase** and associates are responsible for this SAF event • The **Buffalo Club** continues to amaze me with its many changes. They will soon have a full liquor license and dinners. And one final draw of the voluptuous **Pamela** and her beautiful **Ta Ta's** • Friends far and wide are reporting warm and wonderful times at the **Attic Feed & Fuel**. It's a place to be yourself in a low key environment • The **Mercantile**, in the heart of lavender midtown, continues to host a delightfully diverse clientele • The

Townhouse recently celebrated its one year anniversary with a jam packed afternoon and evening. While the event eluded me (It was a busy, busy Sunday!) many who attended could not stop talking about it • An all time favorite of mine is musical duo **Romanovsky & Phillips**. Funny as it seems, they perform at the First United Methodist Church on June 14. Tickets are available at the Lambda Community Center • The SAF Healthy Living series continues with **Healthwatch: Your Body Systems and HIV** with **Gordon Huth, M.D.** Don't miss the opportunity to share in this workshop on June 6. The next **Buddy Connection/90** safe sex workshop is June 18. And finally, there's the **Heart to Heart**

discussion group every Tuesday evening • Plan ahead for the **Positive Social Support Newsletter (PSSN)** pool party on June 30. Mr. Sacramento Daddy, **Mike Kelley**, is scheduled to attend. Will he take part in the nude water volleyball? • **Physique 90** powerhouses into San Francisco's Herbst Theatre on June 23. Sacramentans made quite the showing last year. Be there and root our team on to even more awards • In past issues, we have reported that colleges across the country were taking steps to ban ROTC. The group outwardly discriminates against homosexuals. California State University, Sacramento is fortunately taking a similar stance against the Army group.

See FLASH on page 18

PERFORMING ARTISTS FOR AIDS RELATED CHARITIES

PRESENTS A MUSICAL VARIETY



The 3rd Annual Benefit Performance

To Benefit:
The CARES Clinic
The Sacramento AIDS Foundation
The AIDS Response Projects of the Lambda Fund

Saturday, June 9, 1990
24th Street Theatre
2791 24th Street
Sacramento, California

6-7 pm Light Hors d'oeuvres. Beer and Wine
7 pm Curtain

\$15.00 per person
In Advance or At The Door
Tickets Available At:
The Sacramento Community Theatre Box Office
Lioness Book Store, The Gifted Gardener
and The Lambda Community Center

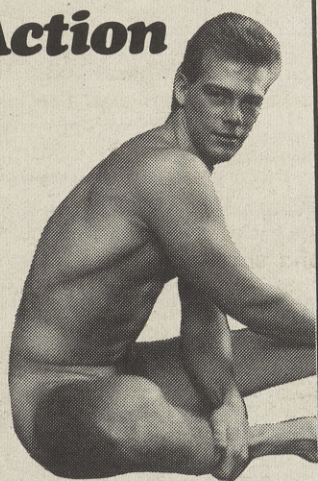
LIVE!

**Nationwide Action
FOR MEN
ONLY**

**NO
CREDIT CARD
REQUIRED**

ADULTS ONLY
95¢ PER MINUTE

1-900-999-1114



**HOT
TALKING
PERSONALS!**

- Listen, or Record Yours
- Over 25 Gay Categories
- Private Voice Mailboxes
- Fun - Safe
- Easy to Use
- 24 Hours

1-900-646-4646



\$1.45/min.

More Info: (305) 565-4455, Ext. 1434

FREE

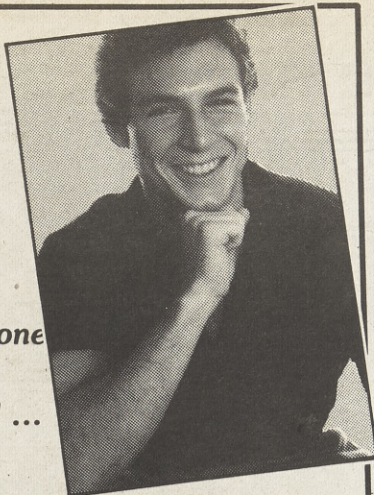
Message Line 447-BLUE

A new and exciting telephone
dating service

Meet your new friends call ...

1-900-844-BLUE

Say Happy Birthday or any other
personal message with a display ad in MGW
Call 441-NEWS



MGW

Distribution List

Sacramento

MGW Newspaper	1725 L St.
Buffalo Club	19th & S St.
FACES	20th & K St.
Joseph's Town & Country	2062 Auburn Blvd.
Townhouse	21st & O St.
Mercantile	20th & L St.
The Wreck Room	2513 Broadway
AIDS/KS Foundation	1900 K St.
Continental Motel	1432 W. Capitol Ave.
Tower Books	Watt Ave.
Tower Books	Broadway & 16th
Tower Books	Florin Rd.
Tower Theater	Broadway & 16th
YWCA	17th & L St.
Metropolitan Community Church	2741 34th
Incredible Edible Rest.	N St. & Alhambra
Lambda Comm. Center	L & 20th
Sac Food Co-Op	Alhambra & S St.
Midtown Video	2424 J St.
Lioness Books	2224 J St.
Time Tested Books	1114 21st St.
Let's Celebrate	2318 J St.

Davis
Newsbeat 231 E St.

THESE LOCATIONS USUALLY RUN OUT OF MGW
EARLY. YOU MIGHT WANT TO CONSIDER A
SUBSCRIPTION FOR \$25/YEAR THAT WAY YOU
WOULD BE GUARANTEED A COPY OF MGW.

Lesbian and Bi
*Dating
Service*



write to
our new
branch:

Woman to Woman
P.O. Box 160226
Sacramento, CA

95816-9998

Read the
Personals in

MGW

MAN-TO-MAN CONTACTS

TALKING PERSONAL
ADS ARRANGED BY
AREA CODE

RECORD YOUR OWN AD AND
OPEN UP A PRIVATE VOICEMAIL
BOX INSTANTLY!

LISTEN TO LOCAL ADS
IN YOUR AREA

MEET MEN IN YOUR AREA NOW!

RECEIVE MESSAGES IN YOUR OWN
PRIVATE VOICEMAIL BOX TONIGHT!

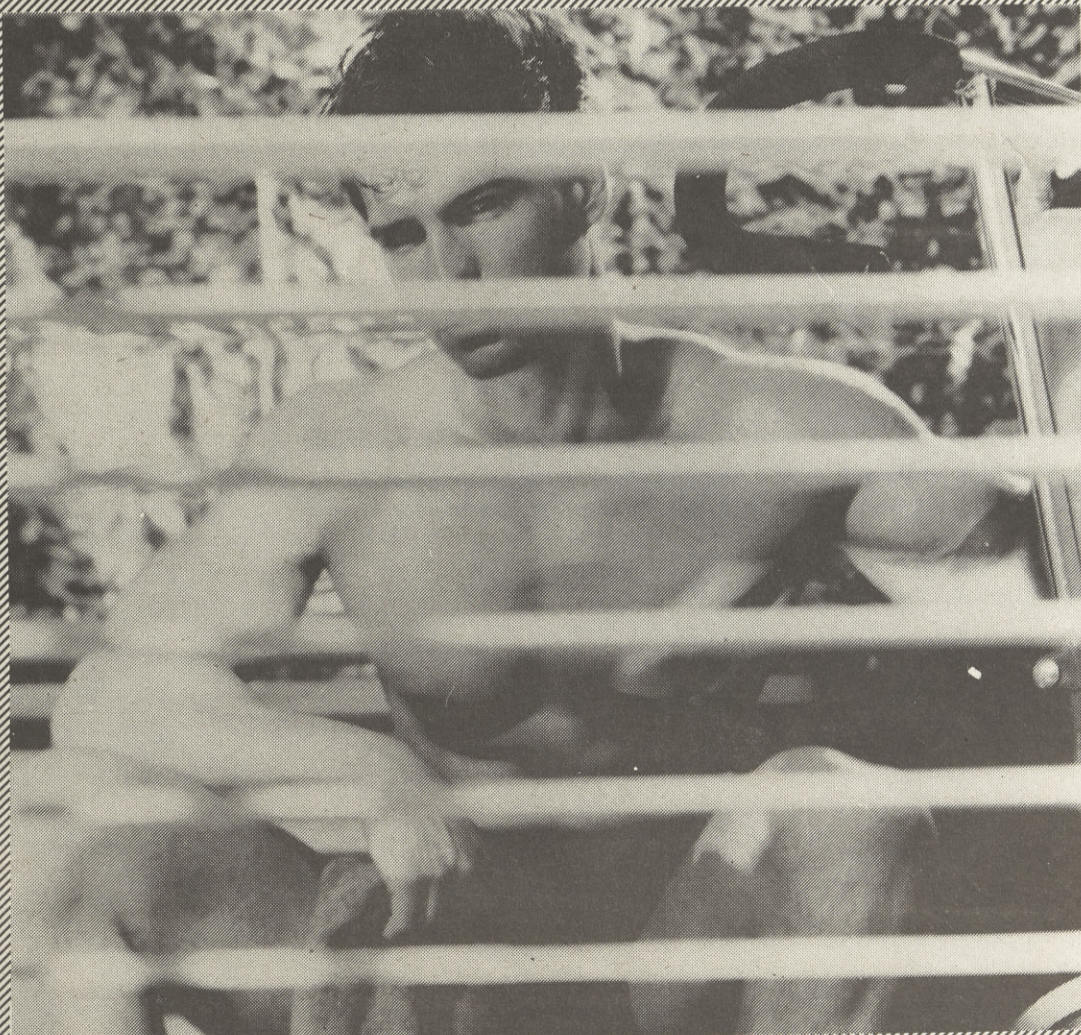
YOU DIAL IN
YOUR AREA CODE,
YOU GET ADS
FROM MEN IN
YOUR LOCAL AREA -
NOT FROM ACROSS
THE COUNTRY.

MEN FOR MEN

1 (900) 234-3500

ADULTS ONLY

I WANT YOU!



1-900-LOVE-MEN

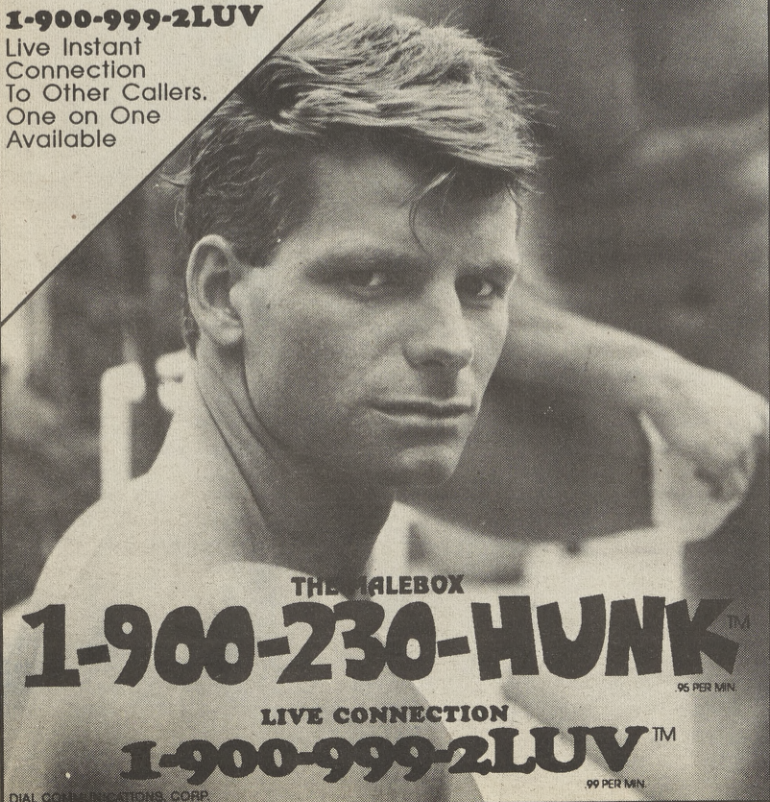
© 1990 REAL PEOPLE, LTD. • 95¢ PER MIN. • \$2.00 THE 1ST MIN. • YOU MUST BE 18 OR OLDER

**IT'S
BACK!**

HUNK MALEBOX®

Dial
1-900-230-HUNK
to leave and listen from
others with the most advanced
technology-complete privacy.
TRY IT!

1-900-999-2LUV
Live Instant
Connection
To Other Callers.
One on One
Available



THE MALEBOX
1-900-230-HUNK
LIVE CONNECTION
1-900-999-2LUV

DIAL COMMUNICATIONS, CORP.

